

Council and GHI Praise Pepco But Not Verizon and Comcast

by Kathleen Gallagher

On Monday, June 30, the Greenbelt City Council and the Board of Directors of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) met for their annual stakeholder worksession. The location of the meeting alternates. This year they met in the council room at the Municipal Building.

All members of the city council were present except Leta Mach, who was out of town. Seven of the nine directors of the GHI board attended. Vice President Susan Ready introduced Steven Skolnik as the new president of the board, although he is well known to council in another capacity. He served for more than 20 years on the city’s Board of Appeals, for most of them as chair.

Other GHI board members present were Ed James (secretary), Chuck Hess (treasurer), Frank DeBernardo, Diana McFadden and Bill Jones. Also at the

table were City Manager Michael McLaughlin and GHI General Manager Eldon Ralph. Not able to attend were Patricia Novinski and Aaron Markavitch.

The agenda for the annual meeting is typically a combination of “something old, something new.” Occasionally there is even “something borrowed.” This year, about half the agenda items were topics carried over from prior meetings or discussions.

Pepco Poles

Pepco’s electrical rehab project, first discussed at the 2012 worksession, was the first subject out of the gate. This year Pepco was the good guy of the evening, which has not always been the case. Skolnik reported that GHI has had few member complaints about the utility’s extensive work in replacing most of its utility poles in conjunction with the removal, trimming and replacement

of trees. As part of this work, Pepco was also upgrading its own equipment. The goal was to reduce outages and improve performance. Skolnik said he thought Pepco had done an excellent job.

In contrast, Skolnik observed, Verizon and Comcast seem to have done almost nothing about moving their wiring and equipment to the new Pepco poles so Pepco can remove the old ones. The understanding was that Verizon and Comcast would take action within 90 days of Pepco’s completing its work.

McLaughlin said there was concern about this problem over such a wide geographic area that legislation about it had been introduced in the General Assembly this year. Although the bill did not pass, he said it was remarkable that the issue had received

See **COUNCIL**, page 12

Greenbelt Makes Short List Of Potential FBI HQ Sites

by Emmett Jordan

The city received notice early Tuesday afternoon that the Greenbelt Station Site has been selected by the General Service Administration (GSA) to be on the short list of three potential sites for the relocation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) headquarters. The other sites are the former Landover Mall and one in Springfield, Va.

We’ve been expecting this announcement for several months. The proposed site would be developed under an agreement between WMATA and Garth Beall, an attorney and developer who has worked with the city on the site for more than a decade.

This project would be a “game changer” for the areas surrounding Greenbelt and Prince George’s County. It would bring as many as 11,000 FBI personnel consolidated from 20 locations around the region to Greenbelt.

The positive impact on our lo-

cal economy could be enormous, producing ancillary jobs and new opportunities for local businesses and entrepreneurs. Our property values would likely increase, as some FBI employees would choose to live in Greenbelt and neighboring communities. Also, the relocation might provide the city with opportunities to improve transportation or other infrastructure that we currently cannot justify upgrading.

Our proximity to the Metro, MARC, Amtrak, I-495, I-295, Greenbelt Road/University Boulevard, and BWI Marshall Airport would provide unparalleled access to mass transit and other transportation.

The site clearly meets all of the GSA requirements and seems to be the best fit for this project among the potential sites.

Several steps will need to take

See **FBI HQ**, page 6

GATE’s Relationship to City Is Discussed at Worksession

by Anjali Shastry

The Greenbelt City Council and Greenbelt Access Television were unable definitively to decide at a city council worksession on July 23 whether the channel would continue being city-supported or would instead become a completely independent city contractor.

Council has been facing pressure from Greenbelt citizens to justify why Greenbelt’s public access television channel, better known as GATE, is housed rent-free in the Greenbelt Community Center despite being a non-governmental organization when other organizations located there must pay for their space, Mayor Emmett Jordan said.

GATE not only receives a studio but also \$20,000 of funding. In return, they help with city-funded events and lend equipment to the city whenever asked, said Councilmember Judith Davis.

The current lack of specificity as to GATE’s obligations has led GATE and the council to create a memorandum of understanding outlining specific duties GATE would be responsible to cover for its rent.

In response to GATE’s reluctance to accept this memorandum, some city councilmembers suggested getting rid of the memorandum altogether and instead to transition to a completely contractual relationship in which GATE would pay rent and in turn charge the city for its services.

GATE Response

GATE was unhappy with the original memorandum because it was “too specific” about what GATE had to do for the city, said Robert Zugby, president of GATE. They wanted instead to continue the status quo but add a yearly report of everything they had done for the city to make it easier for the city to check on it.

GATE is a public access television channel that airs community-created programming. In addition to airing these programs, GATE teaches people how to create their own programs, use broadcast equipment and write for television. GATE also offers animation classes in conjunction with the Greenbelt Association for the Visual Arts, Zugby said.

Currently, no formal process exists for determining if GATE is fulfilling its duties to the city. The city sometimes meets with GATE board members to review the budget.

“They help us, we help them,” Davis said.

Davis said that GATE was no longer a fledgling organization that needed the city to continue operating like it did when it was established in 1987. “It seems like the simplest thing to do is that [GATE] simply pay the \$4,356 in your rental contract as other organizations do, bill us for services rendered, and then we’ll just deal with that,” she said. “You used

to be struggling but now you’re a well-run organization.”

Goodwill?

Zugby said that this would create too much of a corporate atmosphere that would ruin the goodwill between the city and GATE.

“The impetus of cooperation right now is just goodwill. That’s part of our mission,” said Zugby. “We cooperate with the city and the city cooperates with us when asked. You change it to a commercial operation, that changes the whole footing on the relationship with us and the city of Greenbelt,” he added.

Councilmember Konrad Herling, also disagreed with the contractor suggestion.

“I cannot think of a time in the last 20-plus years where cable access TV was asked to help out and GATE said no,” Herling said. “It’s almost as if GATE becomes a contractor to the city, and if that’s the way the city wants to go, it’s a decision the city can make. But I don’t support the idea.”

It was agreed that Zugby and City Manager Michael McLaughlin will work out another iteration of the memorandum to send to council. This will not happen immediately, however, no date has been set yet to finalize it.

Anjali Shastry is a graduate student at the University of Maryland writing for the News Review.

GHI Hears Building Comm. Analysis of Pilot Program

by Mike Sheils

The Greenbelt Homes, Inc. Board of Directors voted unanimously Thursday, July 24 to end an agreement with Genesis Electrical Services and in turn to contract with Best Way Electric LLC to perform electrical work for the third phase of the Homes Improvement Pilot Program. The board then met with the Buildings Committee to discuss its evaluation of the Pilot Program.

The board voted to end the contract with Genesis “because it may not be able to provide services in a timely manner due to other commitments,” according to the motion that passed.

The board approved contracting with Best Way to replace baseboard heaters and install new thermostats and ceiling heaters in the 16 pilot program units that signed on for the work.

“We have contacted them as far as availability with material and delivery, and they’re two weeks for getting material in and they are available to start,” said Tom Sporney, director of technical services for the housing co-op.

Buildings Committee

The board meeting was followed by a two-hour work session in which the Buildings Committee and the board discussed the committee’s evaluation of the pilot program.

While the committee and the board led the conversation, community members were given a chance to offer thoughts and ask questions.

Home Innovation Research Labs (HIRL) provides technical

See **GHI**, page 6

What Goes On

- Saturday, August 2**
8:30 p.m., Moonlit Movie – Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark, Lawn of the Aquatic and Fitness Center
- Monday, August 4**
8 p.m., Council Worksession with Board of Education, Municipal Building. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at www.greenbeltnmd.gov
- Tuesday, August 5** – National Night Out (see city ad on page 5 for information)
- Friday, August 8**
10 a.m. and 2:15 p.m., Message to Tomorrow, Creative Kids Camp Musical, Community Center.
- Friday, August 8 through Sunday, August 10** – Game On Circus Show, Community Center (see city ad for times)

Letters to the Editor

Thanks from Natasha The Belle Point Cat

You do not know how long I was out in that parking lot! If it weren't for the storm drain and the dumpsters I don't know what I would have done. Plus all those nice people in their cars who were careful when they saw me scurrying about.



Natasha of Belle Point

Life was pretty much hell. I got really, really thin and I had to sort through all kinds of trash like broken glass and cleaning supplies just to find a bite to eat. I even lost half my hair and had sores on my skin. Life was pretty scary, getting scraped up here and there and getting all covered with oil and dirt.

For some reason, a lady saw me and apparently thought I was in a mess of a situation. I knew no different. She started delivering food every night. FOOD! I learned her schedule and to recognize her car. Then other people came and brought some weird metal thing. Scared the living daylight out of me. Next thing I knew, food appeared inside of it! Being the smart cat I am, I quickly learned to head right in. One day, to my surprise, it snapped shut quicker than lightning. Oh my God. I was trapped and I swore that my life was over.

Well, guess what? I am now out of the gutter, off the streets and in a shelter. I no longer have to ravage through dumpsters and dodge cars. I have clean water and food ALL THE TIME! They said something about a flea allergy and gave me medicine to quiet down my skin. My hair is growing back and I am gaining weight. Although I do miss running around, I do not miss having my life in danger or possibly causing an accident.

And get this! Although I am pretty scared and have no clue what is going on with my life, I have not hissed, swatted or bitten anyone, even when I got out of the cage and was picked up by a volunteer. I also let the woman scratch my head through the cage which felt good.

they will affectionately greet you. If you have room in your heart and home for one of us, please talk to the people in charge. Just tell them I invited you to come by!

*Dictated to Katrina Boverman
by "Natasha of Belle Point"*

Caring Donors Make Pantry a Success

You are the valued members of the Greenbelt Pantry and S.O.M.E. With your support we provide food and necessities for 15 families a week – breakfast, lunch and dinner.

We thank Father Walter Tappe, Lucy Fuentes, Mike McAndrew, Mayor pro-tem Judith Davis, The Knights of Columbus, Mishkan Torah, Pamela Gregory, Nancy DePlatchett, Huang Lee, Mark Weber, Warren Wilcox, the Mishkan Torah Sisterhood and you, the caring donors of the Greenbelt Co-op, where Manager Bob Davis provides the pantry with the "Green Bin" for your food donations.

Since 2008 a solid core of volunteers have shown commitment to the mission of the pantry: Shirley Donkis, Bridget McDermott, Helen White, Magdalen Fuchs, Ann Moriarity, Vicki Focht, Ann Marques, Mary Jo Dorsey, Melissa Bowman, Veronica Huber, Barbara Hamilton and Mary Ann Tretler

Thank you for being a caring friend and supporter. Our shelves are no longer bare.

*Solange Hess
Chair*

That lady still visits and now calls me "Natasha of Belle Point". She is determined to find somewhere for me to live so I do not return to that parking lot. She dreams of a temporary or permanent home once my adoption status is no longer pending so I can have more time to calm down and come out of my shell. She is talking to anyone and everyone and making lots of phone calls. Could you help spread the word and do it quickly?

I am so grateful I ended up in Greenbelt. My helpers, Lauren, Keith, Howard and the volunteers are amazing and I don't know how they do all that they do. Even though I am one skinny, scared cat, my heart is filled with thanks to Greenbelt for making sure I have a chance for a better life.

If you like cats maybe you can come visit me. If I am too shy, my roommates assure me

Send us a letter to share your observations, concerns, gripes and accolades regarding local issues.

Letters must contain your name, address and phone number.

Email your submission to newsreview@verizon.net or drop it by our office in the Community Center.

We love to hear from you!

Greenbelt Concert Band Free Performance

Sunday, August 3, 2014
2:00 PM



Greenbelt American Legion Post 136
6900 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
In the Sam Hofberg Banquet Hall

The Post welcomes all members of the
Greenbelt Community to this event.



Join GreenBeLT Pride
Friday, August 8, 2014
5-8pm (Rain or Shine)
At the Greenbelt Pool
101 Centerway
301.397.2204
(There is an admission fee.)

Pizza provided by Pride.

You may bring veggies, fruit, beverages or dessert (no glass containers, please) if you wish.

RSVP Andrea 301-474-0294 before 8/5/14

Sponsored by GreenBeLT Pride

Grin Belt



"Uh-oh . . . I thought the paper boats were on hyper drive mode."

Tiny Tots Program

Little ones ages 18 to 42 months are invited to learn about wildlife at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge through songs and rhyming. Parental participation and registration is required; call 301-497-5887. This program will be offered on Sunday, August 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and on Monday, August 11 from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

For information visit the website at fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent.

GHI Notes

Thursday July 31, 7 p.m. – Nominations and Elections Meeting – GHI Library

Friday August 1, OFFICE CLOSED – Emergency Maintenance will be available.

Monday August 4, 7 p.m. – Pre-Purchase Orientation – Board Room

Note: Committee and board meetings are open; members are encouraged to attend.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Franklin Park: Arlene Clarke 301-474-1526

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Eileen Farnham, president; Thomas X. White, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Marat Moore, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg and Sylvia Lewis

DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$45/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

Community Events

At the Library

Thursday, August 7, 10:30 and 11:15 a.m. for ages 3-5. Pre-school Storytime. Make reading a positive experience for one's child by coming to this weekly event, which includes a mixture of songs, fingerplays and age-appropriate stories that support early literacy. Limited to 20, adults and children. Stop by the information desk to pick up free tickets.

Saturday, August 9, 10 a.m. for all ages. The Master Gardener program continues with Deer-Resistant Plants, which includes information on plants deer prefer to eat or will eat as a last resort.

Fizz, Boom, Read!! is the theme of the 2014 Summer Reading Program for all ages. T-shirts are back this year as prizes for participating in Summer@Your Library, which continues until August 31. Visit www.pgcmcls.info/SummerAtYourLibrary for more information, a listing of events or to register.

For more information, visit the library, call 301-345-5800 or go to www.pgcmcls.info. For automated phone renewal call 301-333-3111.

Information Day Invites Participation

Jennifer Robinson, Information Day coordinator for the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, has announced that small businesses and other organizations that want to share information about themselves with Festival attendees are invited to participate in Information Day on Saturday, August 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Non-food giveaways and hands-on activities work well, and businesses can distribute coupons or brochures. Sales or other financial transactions are not allowed at Information Day. Tables and chairs can be rented or participants may bring their own. There is a fee for participating.

For details visit greenbelt-laborday.com, and click on "Get Involved" and then "Information Day." To ask questions, send an email through the website, or call Committee President Linda Ivy at 301-675-0585.

Artful Afternoon

Catch some rays at the August 3 Artful Afternoon at the Community Center. Artful Afternoon is a monthly program of the Recreation Department taking place at the Community Center. All ages are welcome. Most activities are free. Times vary for individual activities.

From 1 to 3 p.m., make a colorful sun catcher in a free, all-ages workshop with Artist-in-residence Karen Arrington. Supplies will be provided. From 1 to 4 p.m. enjoy a variety of additional activities at your leisure. See our kid-friendly art gallery exhibit "Show Me a Story" featuring illustrations created by up-and-coming artists for picture books, games, films and more. See short animated films created by local youth at the Greenbelt Access Television production studio.

Visit the Community Center studios of our artists-in-residence at an open house and sale; be inspired by their work in many styles and media, and find unique gifts. Also, see the Greenbelt Museum's current exhibit "Greenbelt: The First 75 Years" exploring the city's history through an interactive timeline.

For more local history, tour the Greenbelt Museum's historic house at 10-B Crescent Road, across the street from the Community Center. Tours are available from 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. for a nominal fee.

For more information about City of Greenbelt art programs, visit 301-397-2208. Arts programs are sponsored in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Greenbelt Pride Holds Pool Party

Join Greenbelt Pride families and friends on Friday, August 8 at the Greenbelt Aquatic Center pool from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., rain or shine. Pizza provided by Greenbelt Pride. Bring veggies, fruit, desserts or beverages. No glass containers.

RSVP to Andrea at 301-474-0294 by August 5, if possible.

Credit Union Collects School Supplies

Greenbelt Federal Credit Union is collecting school supplies for kids in need at Springhill Lake Elementary School. Lists of needed items may be found at the drop-off boxes located at the Credit Union and Co-op Supermarket or on the school's website. Cash or check donations are accepted at the Credit Union.

Checks should be made payable to Springhill Lake Elementary School. Call 301-474-5900 with questions.

Star Party

The public is invited to a star party, sponsored by the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt. Enjoy Saturn, Mars and the moon. Several nice star clusters and nebulae may also be visible.

It's all happening Saturday, August 2 at the city observatory at the end of Northway. Setup will begin around 9 p.m. All are welcome and there is no admission charge.

Park in the lot at the bottom of Observatory Hill unless bringing a telescope. If so, parking and setting up on the hill is allowed.

Club members will be setting up personal telescopes, so if considering a purchase, different types can be used for viewing. Need help with a new telescope? Bring it and an experienced club member will be available to help. Bringing insect repellent and a light jacket is recommended. The star party will be canceled without notice if it's hopelessly cloudy.

Toastmasters to Meet Wednesday, August 6

The next meeting of the Greenbelt Toastmasters Club will be on Wednesday, August 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the social hall of Greenbelt Community Church at Hillside and Crescent Roads. The social hall is at the rear of the church on the lower level of the main building.

Toastmasters offers professionals, students, stay-at-home parents and retirees a supportive environment to improve skills in communication and leadership. Members learn to lose the fear of public speaking, become better listeners and build skills for success.

Financial Excellence Award to Greenbelt

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was awarded to the City of Greenbelt by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

Its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The city's report was presented by Jeffrey L. Williams, city treasurer, on July 22.

The CAFR is judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program. The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

Concert Band Performs

The next performance for The Greenbelt Concert Band is Sunday, August 3, at 2 p.m. in the Greenbelt American Legion Post #136 at 6900 Greenbelt Road. This free patriotic concert is open to the public and is indoors, and goes "rain or shine". The band will feature selections from South Pacific, the Wizard of Oz, the music of World War II, and John Philip Sousa's Stars and Stripes Forever.

ACADEMY STADIUM THEATRE
6198 GREENBELT ROAD
CENTER COURT OF BELTWAY PLAZA
301-220-1155
For directions visit
www.academy8theaters.com
Most features are \$5.00
all day on Tuesdays; add \$2.00 for 3-D
R = ID Required
(!) = No passes, (!!) = No passes weekend

WEEK OF AUG 1

FRIDAY - SUNDAY

Planes: Fire & Rescue, PG
11:50, 2, 4:15, 6:30
Lucy, R (!)
11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 8:45, 9:30
The Purge: Anarchy, R
11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 7:05, 9:35
Hercules, in 3D, PG-13 (!)
10
Hercules, in 2D, PG-13 (!)
11:20, 1:50, 4:35, 7:15
Guardians of the Galaxy, in 3D, PG-13 (!)*
1:30, 4:15, 9:45
Guardians of the Galaxy, in 2D, PG-13 (!)*
10:45, 11:15, 2, 4:45, 7, 7:30, 10:15
Get On Up, PG-13 (!)*
11:50, 3:20, 6:50, 9:50
Dawn of the Planet of the Apes, PG-13
11:55, 3:10, 6:45, 9:45

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY

Planes: Fire & Rescue, PG
11:50, 2, 4:15, 6:30
Lucy, R (!)
11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 8:45, 9:30
The Purge: Anarchy, R
11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 7:05, 9:35
Hercules, in 3D, PG-13 (!)
10
Hercules, in 2D, PG-13 (!)
11:20, 1:50, 4:35, 7:15
Guardians of the Galaxy, in 3D, PG-13 (!)*
1:30, 4:15, 9:45
Guardians of the Galaxy, in 2D, PG-13 (!)*
10:45, 2, 4:45, 7, 7:30, 10:15
FREE SCREENINGS
for Seniors, Special Needs, Family Film Series
10
Get On Up, PG-13 (!)*
11:50, 3:20, 6:50, 9:50
Dawn of the Planet of the Apes, PG-13
11:55, 3:10, 6:45, 9:45

THURSDAY

Planes: Fire & Rescue, PG
11:50, 2, 4:15
Into the Storm, R (preshow)
8, 10:15
Lucy, R (!)
11:15, 2:05, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
The Purge: Anarchy, R
11:10, 1:40, 4:10
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, PG-13 (preshow)
7, 9:30
Hercules, in 3D, PG-13 (!)
10
Hercules, in 2D, PG-13 (!)
11:20, 1:50, 4:35, 7:15
Guardians of the Galaxy, in 3D, PG-13 (!)*
1:30, 4:15, 9:45
Guardians of the Galaxy, in 2D, PG-13 (!)*
10:45, 11:15, 2, 4:45, 7, 7:30, 10:15
Get On Up, PG-13 (!)*
11:50, 3:20, 6:50, 9:50
Dawn of the Planet of the Apes, PG-13
11:55, 3:10
Step Up All In, PG-13 (preshow)
8

*NOT a part of the morning and Tuesday discount shows

More Community Events are throughout the paper.

Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATE)
2nd Floor, Greenbelt Community Center, Suite 204
www.greenbelttv.org • Studio: 301-507-6581

Open and Free to the Public

GATE Orientation Class – Questions? Get some answers.
Tuesday, August 5th, 7 – 10PM
Artful Afternoon Open House
Sunday, August 3rd, 1 – 4PM

Members Only

Basic Editing Class (\$\$)

Learn the basics: set up, capture, edit, and basic graphics in Adobe Premiere.

Sept. 2 – 4, Tues. – Thurs., 7-9PM
Sept. 8 – 11, Mon. – Thurs. 7-9PM

Pre-registration required.

Adobe Premiere Editing class (\$\$)

Eight-weeks, Saturdays, Sept. 6 – Oct. 25
Seating is limited.

RSVP for a seat at: GreenbeltAccess@gmail.com

Utopia Film Festival Presents
Sunday, Aug. 3rd & Wednesday, Aug. 6th
Beginning at 8 PM

“Cascadia: The Hidden Fire”, and
“Plagues and Pleasures on the Salton Sea”

On Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATE)
Comcast 77 & Verizon Fios 19 Channels

Greenbelt Arts Center

**** COMING SOON ****



By William Shakespeare
Directed by Joshua Engel
Guest Production from the Rude Mechanicals

August 15, 16, 22 & 23 at 8 PM
Sunday Matinee August 17 at 2 PM

Ticket prices: \$17 General Admission,
\$14 Students/Seniors/Military,
\$12 Child (12& under)

COMING

Auditions – Death by Design –August 26 & 27

The Heroes' Tale – September 5-13

SOON

For information & reservations, call **301-441-8770** or
email: info@greenbeltartscenter.org or
BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at www.greenbeltartscenter.org

123 Centerway • Greenbelt, MD 20770 • Located underneath the Greenbelt CO-OP



Animal Control Program Offers Wide Variety of Benefits

by Li'l Dan Celdran

The Greenbelt Animal Control program was established in 2002. Greenbelt is the only municipality in Prince George's County to have and to operate its own shelter and adoption program. The Animal Control Division prides itself on being ethical and humane in its treatment of animals, including providing positive reinforcement training techniques. The City of Greenbelt uses two veterinary practices to assist in providing care and treatment of animals. Greenbelt Animal Control operates a no-kill organization.

The Staff

One part-time and two full-time employees receive and run calls, impound animals, prosecute neglect/cruelty cases and care for animals in the shelter seven days a week. They also hold fundraisers for special needs animals, plan and implement events for the public as well as maintain the shelter and surrounding grounds that accommodate the shelter. Keith Gooding, who interned with the shelter during high school and then became an active volunteer, earned more volunteer hours than anyone in his graduating class. He loves to work with "problem" dogs and train the animals to do tricks, he says. He apparently has a calming effect on the animals and works hard to keep all of them comfortable while at the shelter.

Howard Stanback, who recently planned and implemented a successful Animal Care Expo, works part time as an animal control officer and part time as a parking enforcement officer for the city.

Lauren (Derise) Crossed began working for the City of Greenbelt at the end of 2008 as an Animal Control Officer. She started her career with the Washington Humane Society in a high-volume shelter in 2000, departing in 2008 as Director of Animal Control. She is certified in blow dart and dart gun sedating, emergency shelter management and humane euthanasia. Through her match-making, successful adoptions have been made. Crossed also has extensive experience conducting temperament evaluations through Susan Sternburg and Open Paw sheltering through Ian Dunbar.

The Facility

The facility can hold six single dogs or 12 dogs doubled up. The dogs use the play yard at least three times a day, alone or in a playgroup. Three catteries with open colonies allow the cats to roam freely, sunbathe in the window, perch on the cat tree or snuggle in a bed. Every effort is made to place adoptable animals with appropriate adoptive homes. Adoptable animals can be visited at any time by appointment.

Every time I visit the shelter, it is clean and organized. There is calming music being played. For positive reinforcement, Crossed made "catch me being good" pails in which visitors give well behaved dogs a biscuit treat. The cat rooms and dog kennels are equipped with clean litter, food, water dishes and toys. Pictures and pet "biographies" are displayed on the doors.

Volunteers and staff work together to maintain the space and continue to make improvements: landscaping the welcome area, walking the dogs and socializing the cats, assisting in special events, undertaking projects at the animal shelter and providing valuable feedback and ideas to improve operation of the shelter and the animal control program.

Events

Animal Control hosts various events throughout the year:

- A Doggy Easter Egg Hunt in which leashed, friendly pups are invited to the shelter for a bone hunt, photo booth, doggy treats and games.
- A "Real Housecats of Greenbelt" initiative: in preparation for new litters, all adult cat adoption fees are waived.
- Volunteers plan and implement a "Kitten Shower" complete with food, fun and games. Donations benefit the new litters of kittens at the shelter.
- Animal Care Expo/Block Party in June that features face painting, a vegan food truck, smoothies, a pet photographer, a pet psychic, microchipping and rabies vaccinations by the SPCA of Prince George's County, rescue groups (Alley Cat Allies, Oldies but Goodies, Baltimore Bully Crew), Grooming by Em, College Park Animal Control, APAW, positive reinforcement training and Greenbelt CERT team.
- Kissing Booth at Labor Day Festival (get and/or give kisses

es to affectionate canines). A new game will be unveiled this year: for a small fee, participants will toss bagged (fake) poop into a trash can (prizes will be awarded). Not only does this sound hilarious but the staff hopes to encourage pet guardians to pick up after their pets. After all, it is the law. GBAS T-shirts will also be available for purchase.

• 10th annual Pooch Plunge, a Greenbelt tradition, where dogs and their people can swim together in the city's outdoor pool on Saturday, September 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is a fee per dog and a limit of two dogs per handler. Poop bags provided (hint: walk your pup before attending; if there's a poop incident, the event will be concluded).

Fundraising

Staff and volunteers have applied for a spay/neuter grant through the Department of Agriculture. Proposed is a voucher program in which local veterinarians will accept vouchers for pet spaying and neutering. (Franklin Park Apartments has reduced their pet rate for participants in the program.)

Volunteering

According to Crossed, over 40 volunteers assist with operations of the shelter. Celia Craze, the city's Director of Planning and Development, emphasizes that "volunteer support is critical to our mission." For instance, one volunteer has made stools for each cat room so visitors can sit comfortably.

Another team of volunteers has completed steps to become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit to be called WAGS (Well Wishers for the Animals of Greenbelt Shelter). Funds will be raised to complete projects like improving the shelter and shelter yard. Some volunteers want to form

an advisory committee to give input on policies, operations, programs and budget. "Volunteers are encouraged to self-initiate and bring staff ideas," says Craze.

Craze also spoke of two current initiatives:

1. Accepting regular donations to assist with extraordinary, treatable medical procedures for adoptable cats and dogs(e.g. eye surgery for dog Rocky, who now lives with his new forever family).

2. Volunteers have created a landscaping committee. Current projects: creating a durable, low maintenance yard (without dirt) and adding features to the fencing to improve security and crafting an intimate "getting to know you" space (where potential adopters can meet with a dog in a designated area).

Interested persons complete a volunteer application and attend a volunteer orientation. Volunteers apply unique skills to the shelter in many different ways, such as social media outreach, event planning, fundraising, organizing, dog walking, cat socializing (e.g. petting, brushing), fostering, holding adoption events. Every positive



Amelia



Hooch

interaction is seen to benefit the animals. To become a volunteer, contact Crossed at lcrossed@greenbeltmd.gov.

Educational Outreach

Flyers have been made reminding people not to leave pets (or kids) in cars this summer. These are being distributed around the city.

Contact Information

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/City-of-Greenbelt-Animal-Shelter/152733088961>. "Like" the page to get updates and to view adoptable pets from GBAS.

The shelter is located at 550A Crescent Road (behind the Greenbelt Police Station). (The shelter is open to visitors Wednesdays 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. to noon.)

Li'l Dan Celdran is a pet guardian to four kitties.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

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Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

Worship Service 10 a.m.

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Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

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Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
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Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com www.bahai.us

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www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m.

Clara Young, Interim Pastor



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Rabbi Jonathan Cohen Cantor Phil Greenfield

Friday evening services 8:00 PM except first Friday of the month, when children's service begins at 7:30 PM

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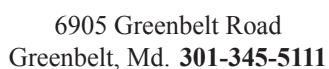
Service Leaders Barbara and Don Fairfield;

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We enter into marriage on the wings of validation with the hope of happiness and the wish for passion. What we actually get is a challenge to grow beyond our limitations.

Meeting this challenge has its rewards, making it ultimately worth the effort.



GHI continued from page 1

assistance to the committee in pilot program design and collecting and analyzing data from the 28 participating units.

“In the process of doing this, we realized we had a lot more questions the deeper we got into this,” said Jim Cohen, committee chair.

“When it comes to actually making the recommendation, we felt as if we’re just not at a point that we’re able to do that until we get some more specificity and clarification,” Cohen said, adding that HIRL is assisting the committee in that regard.

The committee will share its formal recommendations for community-wide upgrades with the membership and the board at a future date. Members will ultimately vote on what (if any) of the pilot program components should be included in the Homes Improvement Program, which already encompasses planned work that is covered by co-op member fees, such as new windows and doors in all units.

The committee has utilized a variety of criteria in judging the

pilot program, including actual cost, member comfort, energy saved, preservation of historic character and improvement of living conditions.

Based upon currently available information, the committee is looking favorably upon recommending bath vents for all three types of homes, as well as air sealing and insulating the attic access doors of the brick and frame units.

In evaluating the pilot program, the Buildings Committee is focusing on numerous potential improvements that are not already covered by co-op member fees and which were recommended by HIRL. These include, for brick units: crawl space insulation, attic insulation and bath vents; for frame units: crawl space insulation, attic insulation, bath vents and exterior insulation; and for block units: crawl space insulation, bath vents, vinyl siding and exterior insulation.

Mike Sheils is a University of Maryland graduate student writing for the News Review.

FBI HQ continued from page 1

place before the final site and development team are selected.

- Approval of a site plan for WMATA replacement facilities
- Completion of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review

• The issuing in the fall of a request for qualifications (RFQ) to qualify the development team

- The issuing next spring of a final request for proposals (RFP)

A final selection could be made toward the end of next year.

We’re excited to be on the short list of possible sites for the new FBI headquarters and will be working closely with Beall, the county and the state to move the project forward.

Emmett Jordan is the mayor of Greenbelt.

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Lions Club of Burtonsville at Liberty Grove United
Methodist Church, 15225 Old Columbia Pike,
Burtonsville

Tuesday, August 5, 1:30 to 7 p.m.,
Montgomery County Chapter House,
2020 East West Highway,
Silver Spring

Tuesday, August 5, 2 to 7:30 p.m.,
Laurel Regional Hospital, 7300 Van Dusen Road,
Laurel

Wednesday, August 6, 1:30 to 7 p.m.,
Montgomery County Chapter House,
2020 East West Highway,
Silver Spring

Thursday, August 7, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.,
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center West,
Route 1 Building #003,
Beltsville

Monday, August 11, 1:30 to 7 p.m.,
Knights of Columbus Prince George’s Council,
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DCHsleep.org



Books at Bedtime Program Held Tuesdays in July at the Library

by Valerie Young

Just before tucking their children in bed, parents came to the “Books at Bedtime” program at the Greenbelt Library, Tuesday, July 22, for a night of singing, reading and playing with their kids.

This program has been presented every Tuesday evening during the month of July by the Prince George’s County Infants and Toddlers Program to help promote a calm and relaxing bedtime atmosphere for infants and toddlers, ages ranging from one to three years.

Kateri Baker, a Special Educator for Prince George’s County, led the program with songs, activities, and tips for parents.



(Left) Ava Walston-Hewitt and son Austin Hewitt (age 3) and (right) Sharonda Smith-McCormick with son Lathan McCormick.

Baker has two children of her own, ages one and three, and is a third generation Greenbelter.

“As a parent, it’s really nice to have something available for the under three crowd,” said Baker. “It’s a hard age to try to focus.”

The Infants and Toddlers program stresses the importance of early childhood development. According to their website, parents should monitor their child’s growth and needs. If parents notice any developmental problems in their child, getting help early will help to minimize future issues.

The “Books at Bedtime” program incorporates interactive songs and peer interaction among the children. These types of activities help with communication, social and literacy skills within the child.

The room filled up as approximately 20 children and their parents excitedly gathered in a small room to begin the program.

Baker stood up and led the children and their parents in singing “The

More We Get Together” and interjecting each child’s name into the song to introduce names to everyone. Baker also read aloud a “Time for Bed” by Mem Fox and “Big Red Barn” by Margaret Wise Brown. The kids then sang along to “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” and “Old MacDonald Had a Farm.”

Farm animals, balls and other toys were in the room for the children to play with.

Ava Walston-Hewitt was there with her three-year-old son, Austin, and they both were enjoying the interaction with the other kids and parents.

“I really enjoy bringing Austin here. It’s a great experience. All the children get to explore their imagination, bond and learn about everything from farm animals to sign language,” said Walston-Hewitt.

Oscar Gonzales, who was there with his daughter Eliza, says his daughter has a speech problem. “I don’t have any more kids, so she doesn’t have anybody else to play with. I was thinking this is a good opportunity for her to play and get along with other kids and experience playing with kids her age,” said Gonzales.

Not only were the kids enjoying themselves, but the parents were talking amongst themselves and interacting as well. “It’s



PHOTOS BY VALERIE YOUNG

Kateri Baker leads the group in an activity to start out the Books at Bedtime.

a great way to integrate play dates and learning,” said Walston-Hewitt.

One more “Books at Bedtime” event was scheduled for July 29, before the program closes for the month.

Valerie Young is a University of Maryland graduate student writing for the News Review.

Circus Performance

Game On, featuring 40 young performers, is the culmination of the four-week circus camp in the Community Center under the direction of Greg May. Days and times for this weekend’s performances are listed in the city information ad on page 5.



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Skippy Assorted Peanut Butter 15-16.5 oz. \$2 ⁰⁰		Shurfine Apple Juice 64 oz. \$1 ⁷⁹				Gold Medal All Purpose Flour Reg./Unbleached 5 lb. \$2 ⁶⁹		Maier's Italian Sliced Bread 20 oz. <div>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE</div>			
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Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to "Weekly Report" or http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf.
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Arrest

July 18, 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A 24-year-old Greenbelt woman was arrested and charged with motor vehicle theft after a parking enforcement officer found a parked vehicle that had been reported stolen to the Prince William County Sheriff's Department. When the woman approached the vehicle with keys in her hand she was arrested. She was transferred to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner and for service of an open arrest warrant for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Assault

July 19, 6:38 a.m., 9000 block Breezewood Terrace. After a man had a verbal altercation with his girlfriend he went to a nearby playground to calm down. While there he was assaulted by as many as eight men who began to punch him. He was able to flee and contact police. He refused medical attention for minor injuries.

DWI/DUI

July 19, 2:04 a.m., 9200 block Edmonston Road. A 33-year-old Greenbelt man was arrested and charged with driving while impaired by alcohol and other traffic-related charges after being stopped for a traffic violation. He was released on citations pending trial.

July 21, 2:39 a.m., Greenbelt Road and Walker Drive. A 22-year old Greenbelt woman was arrested and charged with driving while impaired by alcohol and other traffic-related charges after being stopped for a traffic violation. She was released on citations pending trial.

Theft

July 17, 1:05 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. An unattended notebook-type computer was taken from Beltway Plaza Liquors.

July 20, 5:40 p.m., 7500 block Greenbelt Road. An unattended cell phone was taken from the

Subway Restaurant.

Burglary

July 16, 10:30 a.m., 100 block Westway. Witnesses saw four men taking appliances from the balcony of an apartment under renovation. They fled in a vehicle described as a red pickup truck.

Vandalism

July 21, 1:59 p.m., Kenilworth Avenue and Route 495. Graffiti was painted on a retaining wall.

July 22, 12:21 a.m., Lakeside Drive near Crescent. Eggs were thrown at a residence. The homeowner heard a vehicle leave the area at a high rate of speed immediately after the incident.

Vehicle Crime

One vehicle was stolen from the 6000 block Springhill Drive, a white 4-door 1997 Nissan Maxima with Md. tags 8AL9445. There was an attempt to steal a vehicle in the 100 block Westway when the lock assembly was damaged during an attempt to punch out the driver's door lock.

One stolen vehicle was recovered. A 1979 Ford F-150 pickup truck reported stolen July 13 from the 9100 block Edmonston Road was recovered July 17 by D.C. Metropolitan police in the 1700 block of Buchanan Street N.E., Washington, D.C. No arrests were made. The tags on the vehicle at the time of theft, Md. 95891Z, were not recovered and are still listed as stolen.

In two reports of thefts from autos, broken windows were used to gain access. In the 7900 block Mandan Road the car was rummaged through but nothing appears to have been taken. On Breezewood Terrace near Edmonston Road an in-dash stereo system was taken.

In the 6200 block Springhill Drive a GPS unit was taken.

Vandalism occurred in the 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace where paint on a car was scratched.

Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition "Food and Friendship" program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215.

All meals include bread and margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for August 4 through 8 are as follows:

Monday – Apple Juice, Baked Chicken Thigh, Italian Mixed Vegetables, Hot Cinnamon Peaches, White Bean Salad

Tuesday – Orange Juice, Baked Meatballs with Marinara Sauce, Au Gratin Rotini, Zucchini, Pineapple Tidbits.

Wednesday – Cranberry Juice, Vegetable Soup, Sliced Turkey Breast, Macaroni Salad, Fresh Fruit.

Thursday – Orange Juice, Baked Tilapia with Old Bay Cream Sauce, Lima Beans, Sliced Carrots, Fresh Fruit.

Friday – Cranberry Juice, Hamburger with Wheat Hamburger Bun, Ketchup and Mustard, Tater Tots, Hot Spiced Fruit, Coleslaw.

City Notes

Animal Control staff reports ducklings were captured in a parking lot and transported to a wildlife rehab center, a snake was removed from an apartment, a citation was issued for leaving a dog locked in a car, two guinea pigs were impounded to protect their health and safety, a trapped bird was removed from a net and a dog was found running at large and returned to its owner.

Planning staff worked on scheduling focus group meetings for an economic development strategy.

Street Maintenance/Special Details crew supervised the installation of a new walkway at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

Creative Kids Play Coming on Friday

A new one act play, Message to Tomorrow, will be performed by a cast of 80 campers and staffers on Friday, August 8 at 10 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. in the Greenbelt Arts Center at 123 Centerway. The play is about a savvy Greenbelt grandma who sends her materialistic grandkids on a Flash Gordon-style adventure to the moon of Jupiter.

The play is free but tickets are required. Contact Susie Noaman at snoaman@greenbelt.md.gov to reserve a free ticket. Families of enrolled campers have access to tickets through the camp.

Council and Franklin Park Staff Hold Worksession

by Stephanie Gutierrez-Munguia

The reputation of Franklin Park has steadily become more positive over the last two years since renovations began, said Joseph Kazamovsky of Fieldstone Properties, the apartment complex owners, at the July 28 worksession with the Greenbelt City Council. All councilmembers were present.

The first two years were a real struggle, he added.

The Franklin Park representative updated councilmembers on the current status of work there and any issues that Fieldstone Properties is facing as more renovations take place in the community.

"Some never considered living in a place like this and now we have people looking for a quiet and attractive place to live," Kazamovsky said.

Councilmembers asked about the occupancy rate, the status of the commercial area and other possible improvements.

"We need to truly connect with the community," Councilmember Konrad Herling said.

Earlier Meeting

In 2012, Franklin Park representatives met with council to discuss needed renovations and what good those changes would bring. Franklin Park Business Partnership's Angela Johnson, who moved to Franklin Park before renovations began in 2012, praised Fieldstone Properties for making the changes.

"I did live in the apartment during [the renovations]. I want to share what they're doing here, what has been done here. [Future residents] are not just looking for an apartment," she said. "They're looking for a living experience and that includes not

only our community, but that includes the city community and also the surrounding areas," she added.

Other Franklin Park residents at the meeting, however, voiced their concerns about the increase in rent, utilities and electricity. They were especially concerned as to what might happen if the Federal Bureau of Investigation decides to build a new headquarters facility at the Greenbelt Metro Station Site.

"I came here to voice my opinions about the increase in utilities when I'm conserving and others aren't, but yet I'm being penalized and I'm paying more rather than less," said Rosemary Bell, a resident who has lived in the apartment complex for the last 20 years.

Equipment Removal

At the end of the session, there was discussion that some playground equipment at Franklin Park would be removed. This issue was a concern to Mayor Emmett Jordan. "We really pride ourselves on having a playground and recreational centers for residents so the idea of removing the playground really concerns me," he said.

During the meeting, Fieldstone Properties representatives also discussed a path between Edmonston Road and Cherrywood Lane to allow residents to get to the Greenbelt Metro Station access road at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

"I got a couple of emails from residents thanking the management and thanking the city for making that happen," Jordan said.

Stephanie Gutierrez-Munguia is a University of Maryland graduate student writing for the News Review.

COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS GROUPS
Plan NOW to participate in
INFORMATION DAY
at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival
Saturday, August 30 from 10:30a.m.-4p.m.



For details about registering for Information Day, go to <http://greenbeltlaborday.com/get-involved/information-day-tables/> or contact Committee President Linda Ivy at 301-675-0585.

Dress for Safety
Wear White
At Night

While Moths Were Shy, Club125 Is Enthusiastic

by Tim Curtis

Club125 organized a moth count Wednesday night as part of National Moth Week. The counters gathered at the club in Roosevelt Center around 8 p.m. and set out for the edge of the woods by the horseshoe pits next to the Aquatic and Fitness Center. The area for the moth count needed to be dark so the light would attract the moths. The counters set up a sheet, tossed it over a string and put a lantern behind it. This sheet stuns and collects the moths attracted by the light. They also set up a sweet-smelling substance to attract different types of moths. With everything set up, it was time to wait at least an hour for the counters' light to attract moths. Eight-year-old Ob Cooler-Stith gave the moth count a big thumb's up, but had to leave early. Moth counts, it turns out, go later than an 8 year-old's bedtime. After Ob and his dad, John Stith, left, that left just a couple of counters, Club125 co-founder Eva Fallon and Nikki Privé, who brought the moth count to Club 125 this year. Club125 tries to support and encourage citizen-science projects, Fallon said.

While waiting, there were other creatures of the night to observe, with bats flying overhead and a nighttime game of Frisbee on the softball field. Moth nights started in 2005 when David Moscowitz and Liti Haramaty began holding the events in their community of East Brunswick, N.J.

In 2011, they expanded the idea to a National Moth Week. By 9:45 p.m., it was time to count the moths. Peering around the sheet, the counters looked to their bounty. Amongst the Japanese beetles and the tiny mosquitoes, there was only one moth.

Fallon said the moth might be a leafhopper and they also identified what might be a longhorn beetle.

"We're wondering where the leopard moths are hiding out - because we're seeing the caterpillars everywhere but no moths," Fallon said in an email.

The count may have been disappointing, but the counters are already planning next year's event. They used a normal camping lantern this year but plan to use ultraviolet lights next year. And instead of placing the lantern on the ground, next year they want to hang it in the air.

They hope they can continue to bring awareness of moths and help people realize that they can be just as beautiful as butterflies. During National Moth Week, Club125 also made paper moths last Sunday afternoon and screened a moth documentary on Tuesday.

Tim Curtis is a University of Maryland graduate student writing for the News Review.



PHOTO BY TIM CURTIS

Eva Fallon and Nikki Privé of Club125 count the insects gathered near their lantern at the Club125 moth count.

Long-ago Baltimore Via Interactive View

Step back in time to 1815 Baltimore, a lively city with all classes of society: merchants and sailors, tradesmen and women, free men and slaves, the very rich and the penniless poor. Researchers at the University of Maryland Baltimore County's Imaging Research Center have created an interactive 3-D representation of this dynamic point

in American history. Since June 19, this installation has been on view at the In Full Glory: Maryland during the War of 1812 exhibition at the Maryland Historical Society, 201 W. Monument Street, Baltimore.

For more details, contact Marketing Director Laura Rodini at lrodini@mdhs.org or by calling 410-685-3750 ext. 322.

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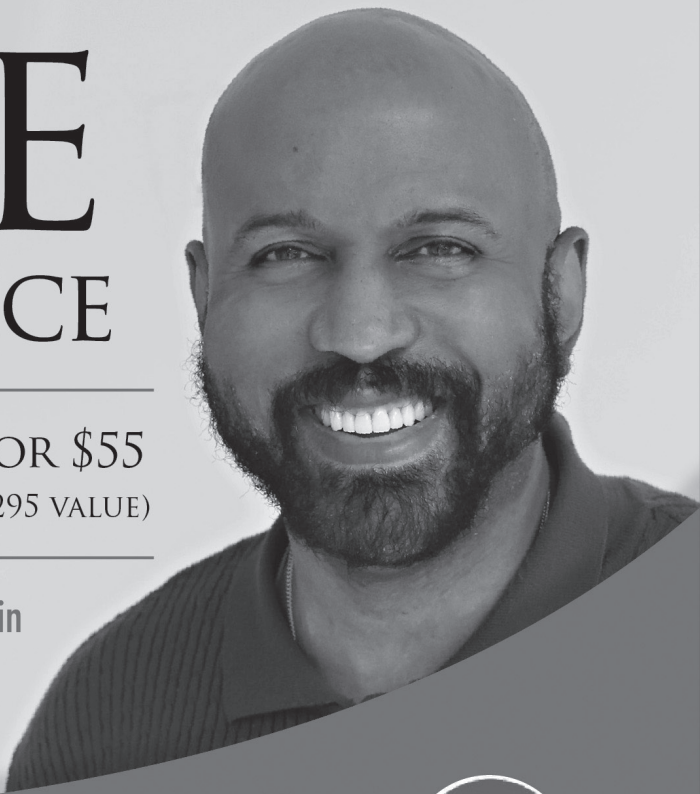


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Patuxent Celebrates Wildlife Refuge

The Patuxent Research Refuge will be celebrating Wildlife Conservation Day on Saturday, August 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the North Tract of the Refuge. The public is invited to go on guided hikes, learn tips on birding, wildlife photography and observation, practice fly tying and fishing, watch working dogs retrieve, participate in archery and firearms demonstrations and engage in crafts for young children. Information will be provided about hunter safety, accessible hunting and fishing and other local conservation and recreational opportunities. Exhibitors/participants will include the Meade Natural Heritage Association and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

According to Refuge Manager Brad Knudsen, Conservation Day celebrates all wildlife conservation efforts and especially the contributions of hunters and anglers in conserving our natural habitats and wildlife resources. The vast lands that make up the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Wildlife Refuge System provide not only habitats for wildlife, but also provide opportunities for people to enjoy wildlife-related recreational activities such as observation and photography, bird watching, hunting, fishing and interpretive and educational programs.

The North Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge is located at 230 Bald Eagle Drive off of Route 198 between the Baltimore/Washington Parkway and Route 32, east of Laurel. If you have any special needs please contact the refuge at least two weeks prior to the event so that we may accommodate you.

For additional information call 301-497-5770 or visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov>.



Solve Patuxent Midnight Mysteries

On Saturday, August 2 from 10 to 11:30 a.m., detectives ages 8 to 10 will be able to uncover the mysterious adaptations of night-dwelling creatures by sharpening their own nocturnal skills, such as night vision and scent, through exploration and games. Public programs at the Patuxent Research Refuge are free but advance registration is required; call 301-497-5887.

For more information visit fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent. The Visitor Center is on Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Route 197.

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1 Bedroom Upper Level GHI Home - Large interior storage area. Carpeted throughout. This home is vacant and ready to go! Bargain Priced at \$59, 900

2 BR GHI Townhome - Block townhouse just off the top of Roosevelt Center. Enclosed porch, hrdwd, flrs, granite dining room, w/d, ceiling fans and more.

3 BR GHI Townhome - Remodeled townhome at the top of Greenbelt. Fenced front & back yards with shed & lots of beautiful plantings. Very Nice!

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2 Bedroom GHI Townhome - Backs to protected woodland, privacy! Fresh paint and carpet, hrdwd flooring. Priced to sell at \$91,900

Brick Townhome W/Addition - GHI home with 1/2 bath on first floor. Addition can be used as bedroom or family room. Award-winning yard! \$169,900

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Brick Townhome With Addition - Very close to the center of town. Extra full bath on first floor. Fenced front and back yards; deck, too! Very Nice!

Block Townhome - Attached Garage - 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath GHI home. Remodeled throughout - hardwood flooring on lower level. Very nice.

Large Corner Lot - 2 bedroom GHI townhome with shade trees, privacy hedges and spacious storage shed. Just steps away from Roosevelt Center.

Walk To Roosevelt Center - 2 BR block w/downstairs study. Remodeled kit. w/Silestone counters, s/s oven and refrigerator. Very modern; you'll love it!

1 Bedroom Upper Level Home - Attic storage space. New tub surround in bathroom. Full-sized washer and dryer in spacious laundry room. \$64,900

Block Townhome With Addition - Rear addition w/bed and office space. Full kitchen, hrdwd flrs and ceramic tiles. Close to Roosev. Center.

2 Bedroom Townhome - Corner lot tucked away from street. New appliances. Oak hardwood flooring on both levels. Priced to sell at \$129,000

**Your Greenbelt Specialists
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COUNCIL continued from page 1

attention at that level.

Higher Priority
McLaughlin said the city would be happy to make the double poles a higher priority if that was desired. In response to Councilmember Silke Pope’s query on whether there was anything the city could do that would have an impact, Councilmember Rodney Roberts noted that some of the poles in question are in city rights-of-way.

In response to a question from Chuck Hess, McLaughlin confirmed that the city was sure Pepco had in fact notified Verizon and Comcast that the new poles were up. Councilmember Judith Davis reminded everyone that the city had been told by Comcast and Verizon in their last worksession that Pepco had unilaterally announced its plan of work without consulting them on coordinating schedules, with the result that this work had not been built into their planning.

Councilmember Edward Putens suggested that the city write to both telecommunications companies and request an accounting of their plans. He commented that he had heard that there might be financial issues and that some of the contractors were not showing up to work.

Davis replied that more than letters might be needed and she pointed out that this suggestion offered a perfect segue into the next topic on the agenda: the ongoing problem with the sorry state of Comcast’s cable boxes. Regarding all things Comcast, Davis asked if there were a way the city could get their attention on these problems by using as a hook the negotiations with Comcast on the renewal of the city’s franchise agreement.

Contract
Beverly Palau, the city’s public information and communication coordinator, was asked to brief the group on the status of the Comcast contract negotiations, which are being conducted by a county consortium on which Palau represents the city. She said they had started out holding regular weekly meetings with Comcast in February but that they had “hit a brick wall” and been unable to get Comcast to meet over the last month.

Although many issues and a sample contract had been presented to Comcast, she said, they were apparently not ready to talk. It was noted, however, that the change in tone might be attributable to their proposed merger with Time Warner Cable.

According to Palau, the topic of the Pepco poles has not to date been part of the negotiations. Rather, it was, as Davis said earlier, a topic at the city’s last worksession with Comcast and Verizon. She stressed that what Pepco is requiring of Verizon and Comcast is a great deal of work, almost approaching a complete rebuild of their plant here, and will take time to do properly.

On the other hand, Palau assured the group that one of the items of negotiation that has been brought up at the contract meetings is that Comcast needs to lay out a procedure for dealing with box maintenance on an ongoing basis since they currently have no procedure in place. She said this is not just a Greenbelt problem and that she has recently received response from a new contact at Comcast who has promised not

to let the matter drop.

Palau asked GHI to keep in touch with her if Comcast does not do what it has said it will do. She said there have been several earlier points when time has been lost because she has passed the matter to GHI staff, thinking they were in communication with Comcast, only to discover that was not the case. “Please remember it’s a two-way street,” she said.

Pope said that Belle Point has had a big problem with repair of cable boxes, too, and has also asked the city for help. Davis said the Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition (GEAC) had also complained about this problem, which affects many areas of the city. Skolnik said he hoped the county would put on the pressure.

Rights-of-Way
Since 2009 GHI and city staff have collaborated to address problems of significant encroachment of eight GHI houses along Crescent Road, resulting in the abandonment of city right-of-way. The success of this joint work inspired Skolnik’s fervent statement (and pun) to McLaughlin and council: “You have a jewel in Terri Hruby, and she has been a joy to work with,” referring to the city’s assistant director for planning, who has been assigned this extensive project.

There are still many more encroachment occurrences, and a new list of five was submitted to the city by GHI for the next round of work. These situations have occurred because of the federal government’s failure to do an “as constructed” site survey to plot city streets at the time the government sold the Greenbelt property to private owners. At this point the rights-of-way issues involving structures are still significant. Ready commented that it is GHI’s hope that the more minor encroachments will eventually be able to be resolved by a comparatively simple memorandum of understanding, if the city is willing.

The city and GHI are both in agreement with the goal of being able to check off the new list of five within the next 12 months.

As a side note, Skolnik commented that in the future there might be right-of-way issues raised regarding charging stations, since a number of GHI residents already have electric vehicles and interest in this issue is growing. At this point GHI itself does not intend to set up stations; however, rather the initiative would be taken by individual members, he said. Since stations need to be near where cars park, there may be right-of-way issues regarding equipment or cable crossings.

Gym Sound System
GHI has for many years used the gym in the Community Center for its annual membership meetings. For a number of years there have been difficulties of one variety or another with the sound. Eldon Ralph said the situation had been better in 2013 than in 2012 but that GHI nonetheless chose to rent its own system in 2014.

Ralph said his concern was that because of the Homes Improvement Program, which soon will go communitywide, many more membership meetings than usual will be held over the next few years and it is essential that sound problems not distract or disrupt the meetings.

Ralph went on to say that the city manager had suggested that perhaps the equipment was not being used to get maximum benefit and he would provide technicians at the next meeting. Ralph said they were grateful for that offer and would be happy to give it another try. McLaughlin said if that still proved inadequate, the city could look into further improvements.

GHI Board Member Frank DeBernardo added that he hoped the city would at some point evaluate enhancing the audio-visual capabilities throughout the Community Center since it is an important meeting site for the city. Jordan mentioned that there had been discussion during the budget period of enabling cablecasting from the Community Center Multipurpose Room.

Davis cautioned people about not having unrealistic expectations of sound quality in a gym. There was also some discussion of whether the renovated Greenbelt Theater might be a feasible site for meetings.

New Playground
The newest playground in the city is located in GHI behind 2 Court of Laurel Hill Road. Its surface was the subject of considerable controversy last year until the city council made a decision to use a poured-in-place rubber surface rather than either the

rubber mulch it had originally intended to use or the wood mulch that some residents considered safer.

Skolnik reported that the majority of residents seemed pleased with the playground itself but that there are areas of significant ponding of water following rainfall on both the adjacent sidewalk and turf areas. This problem did not exist before the playground existed. McLaughlin responded that the efforts of the Public Works Department to regrade the area had been only partially successful and that the city was still working on a solution.

Marketing Greenbelt
Noting that College Park had contracted with a firm to develop a marketing plan to attract new residents to the city and that Hyattsville had established a position for economic development, GHI’s Marketing Committee has made a recommendation that the City of Greenbelt consider doing something similar.

Skolnik said he was interested to see that the city had recently contracted with a firm toward that end. The city manager replied that the city is working with a company to develop an economic strategy, with work being underway.

Jordan explained some of the thinking that went into pursuing this route and said GHI was

on the list for outreach efforts. McLaughlin added that this year’s budget includes funding for assistance in various economic development matters.

Homes Improvement
With the formal agenda completed, the mayor asked for an update on the Communitywide Homes Improvement Program.

Skolnik said the pilot program has one more winter and spring. The plan is to begin to shift to the communitywide program with a membership meeting this fall in which members will be asked to vote on the “envelopes” to homes to improve performance. Many improvements under discussion are unfunded and the pilot was designed to explore options.

Ralph added that during the last phase of the pilot project they will install alternative heating and cooling systems. Another meeting will be held next year to make decisions on those items, he added.

Ready then said she wanted to clarify that while the pilot program is examining options for unfunded improvements, the basis of the Homes Improvement Program involves replacing windows, doors, heating systems and siding on the frame homes, which are being paid for through the reserves accumulated over many years from member fees.

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